

Application No. 09/385,802  
Attorney Docket No. 4031/1 - 15719US00

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 - 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting an instant messaging session between a first user and a second user over the Internet, said first and second the users being associated with a first realm and a second realm respectively ~~two different realms~~, each said realm being accessible via the Internet using a protocol characteristic to said the realm, each said user getting access to the Internet via one of a respective first and second device, at least one of said first and second devices having a storage media ~~for~~ storing the protocol characteristic ~~protocol~~ of the other realm, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a current IP address of the second user, and

establishing a connection between ~~from~~ said first and second users using said current IP address and said protocol characteristic ~~protocol~~ as part of an instant messaging session.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further including sending a message to the IM database indicating the corresponding user is online ~~wherein each time~~ ~~one of said first and second users access the Internet, the corresponding device sends a~~

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~~message to an IM database indicating that the corresponding user is on line and said current IP address.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~17~~ wherein said step of determining said current IP address comprises retrieving said address from said IM database.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~17~~ further comprising sending a connection request from the first to the second device for establishing said instant message session.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising generating a response to said connection request by said second device accepting said connection request.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying a window on the screen of said first and second devices, said window indicating a list of active users.

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Claims 23 – 102 (Cancelled)

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising displaying said window with a message area, said message area being used to indicate messages between said users.

Please add the following new claims:

104. (New) The method of claim 16, further including:  
encrypting an instant message during the instant messaging session.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein at least one of said devices is a handheld computer.

106. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein at least one of said devices is a palmtop computer.

107. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein at least one of said devices is a WebTV device.

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108. (New) A method of conducting an instant messaging session, the method comprising:

establishing an instant messaging session over an Internet protocol network between a first user device and a second user device, each said user device corresponding to a user name, each said user name corresponding to a different realm, each said realm having a protocol characteristic to the realm, each said user device having an Internet protocol address in the realm corresponding to the user name; and encrypting communications in the instant messaging session.

109. (New) The method of claim 108, wherein at least one of said devices is a handheld computer.

110. (New) The method of claim 108, wherein at least one of said devices is a palmtop computer.

111. (New) The method of claim 108, wherein at least one of said devices is a WebTV device.

112. (New) A method of conducting an instant messaging session between a first user and a second user over the Internet, said first user associated with a first realm having a first protocol characteristic

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said first user connected to the Internet using said first protocol characteristic,  
said second user associated with a second realm having a second protocol characteristic,  
said second user connected to the Internet using said second protocol characteristic,  
the method comprising the steps of:  
determining a current IP address for said second user; and  
establishing a connection from said first user to said second user using said current IP address and said second protocol characteristic as part of an instant messaging session..

113. (New) A method of conducting an instant messaging session between a first user and a second user over the Internet,

said first user associated with a first realm having a first protocol characteristic,  
said first user connected to the Internet using said first protocol characteristic,  
said second user associated with a second realm having a second protocol characteristic,  
said second user connected to the Internet using said second protocol characteristic,  
the method comprising the steps of:  
determining a current IP address for said second user; and  
displaying an instant message from said first user to said second user using said current IP address and said second protocol characteristic.

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114. (New) An instant message receiving system, said system including:

a first user device connected to an Internet Protocol network and associated with a first Internet Protocol address, a first user name, and a first realm, said first realm employing a first protocol characteristic; and

a second user device connected to said Internet Protocol network and associated with a second Internet Protocol address, a second user name, and a second realm, said second realm employing a second protocol characteristic;

wherein said first protocol characteristic is different from said second protocol characteristic,

wherein said second user device receives an encrypted instant message from said first user device.

115. (New) The system of claim 114, wherein at least one of said devices is a handheld computer.

116. (New) The system of claim 114, wherein at least one of said devices is a palmtop computer.

117. (New) The system of claim 114, wherein at least one of said devices is a WebTV device.

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118. (New) A method for receiving an instant message, said method including:  
transmitting an encrypted instant message from a first user device connected to an Internet Protocol network and associated with a first Internet Protocol address, a first user name, and a first realm, said first realm employing a first protocol characteristic; and  
receiving said encrypted instant message at a second user device connected to said Internet Protocol network and associated with a second Internet Protocol address, a second user name, and a second realm, said second realm employing a second protocol characteristic, wherein said first protocol characteristic is different from said second protocol characteristic.

119. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein at least one of said devices is a handheld computer.

120. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein at least one of said devices is a palmtop computer.

121. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein at least one of said devices is a WebTV device.